



DENALI COMMISSION

Denali Commission Chief FOIA Officer Report for FY 2016

The Denali Commission (“Commission”) did not receive any FOIA requests in FY 2016 but has, for several years, taken many steps to make its public business open and available to the public. The most significant steps are as follows:

- The Denali Commission Act of 1998, as amended, requires a public process for the creation of the Commission’s annual workplan. The statute allows for public hearings and public meetings of the Commission to hear public concerns and then make decisions on agency priorities for the upcoming year. In practice the Commission has adopted a three-step process for its decision-making with an initial meeting to determine broad agency priorities, followed by a public hearing and concluding with a final meeting of Commissioners to vote on a final workplan.
- After the Commissioners approve the workplan the document is posted to the federal register for further public comment. After the period of public comment has ended the workplan is provided to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval.
- Once the workplan has been approved by the Secretary of Commerce the agency will begin issuing Financial Assistance Awards (FAAs) to effectuate the workplan. The FAA documents are posted to our public project database and are available to the public.

This process provides the public with access to our most significant documents and is normally sufficient to meet the public’s need for information on the Commission’s priorities and projects. If you have any questions please contact me at 907-271-1640.

John Whittington
General Counsel
Denali Commission

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